

JUSTICE COURT JUDGES



Judge

Ronald E. Kunz

West Jordan Municipal
Justice Court
(Salt Lake County)

Judge Ronald E. Kunz was appointed as the West Jordan City Justice Court Judge in April 1990. As a resident of West Jordan, he has been actively involved in various civic and community service organizations, including serving as a trustee for the Utah Boys Ranch. Judge Kunz earned a Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Utah College of Law in 1979. Prior to his judicial appointment, he worked as a general law practitioner for 11 years handling a wide variety of cases before various levels of state and federal courts. Judge Kunz served as a contract legal defender for the Third Circuit Court and the City of West Jordan. He also served as the attorney for the towns of Woodruff and Kamas during the early years of his practice. Judge Kunz has served on two different Judicial Council Committees to help improve the state's trial by jury system. Under his direction, the West Jordan Justice Court has proactively implemented domestic violence programs that have resulted with Judge Kunz receiving the 2006 "Freedom Award" from the Salt Lake Area Domestic Violence Coalition and being named the 2008 "Advocate of the Year" by the Utah Domestic Violence Council.

Judge Kunz's compliance with performance standards is as follows:

- 1) Had fewer than the maximum allowable cases held under advisement.
- 2) Had at least 30 hours of continuing judicial education annually during his term.
- 3) Mentally and physically fit for office.
- 4) In substantial compliance with the Code of Judicial Conduct.



Judge

Michael W. Kwan

Taylorsville Municipal
Justice Court
(Salt Lake County)

Judge Michael Kwan has served the Taylorsville Justice Court since 1998. Judge Kwan received a law degree from Whittier College School of Law and was certified in Chinese law by the East China University of Politics and Law in 1993. Judge Kwan served as a pro tempore judge in Third District Court from 1996 -1998. He received the Quality of Justice Award in 2001. His Domestic Violence Program was awarded the Peace on Earth Award from the Salt Lake Area Domestic Violence Advisory Council in 2002. He started one of the first DUI/Drug Courts in the nation in 1998. This program received the Governor's Award for reducing drug and alcohol abuse and related crimes in 2008. He is currently serving on the Utah Substance Abuse and Anti-Violence Council and previously served on the Utah Rules of Evidence Committee. Judge Kwan was editor of the National Conference of Special Court Judges journal, was the chair of the Board of Justice Court Judges, and served on the Utah Judicial Council. Judge Kwan has taught judicial education courses across the country for the Utah Judicial Institute, ABA and National Drug Court Institute focusing on traffic, evidence, Constitutional law, and criminal procedure and law.

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The Utah Supreme Court has ordered one public reprimand of Judge Kwan since February, 2004. On November 1, 2005, the Court publicly reprimanded Judge Kwan for making comments during an argument in a criminal case that violated Canon 3B(4) of the Code of Judicial Conduct, which requires a judge to be patient, dignified, and courteous.

Judge Kwan presided at a hearing on a motion to suppress. Defense counsel argued that the city prosecutor had failed to produce a document relevant to the motion. After argument, Judge Kwan ruled that the prosecutor had willfully failed to comply with the prior order of the court to produce the document. Defense counsel moved to dismiss the case. The prosecutor argued against the motion, again stating that the previous discovery order did not include the document. Judge Kwan told the prosecutor that he seemed to be raising the "Clinton defense." Judge Kwan then explained that the prosecutor's argument was similar to President Clinton claiming that he understood he was not supposed to have sex outside of marriage, but that "nobody told him he couldn't put his _____ in somebody else's mouth."